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Women Workers in Seven Professions: A Survey of Their Economic Conditions and Prospects. Edited for the Studies Committee of the Fabian Women's Group by EDITH J. MORLEY. London: George Routledge & Sons, Limited; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. xvi+318. \$2.00 net.

This volume, dealing with limitations under which trained women suffer in England, is an expression of the realization that wider opportunities for such women must be secured along professional lines, in order, first, to obtain the kind and quality of work which is necessary in those occupations which are already open to women; second, to open to women of ability a way to those occupations for which they are adapted by natural gift and by social position. Obviously, if the higher positions in any profession are closed to women that fact discourages the ablest women from occupying the humbler positions and prevents most women from qualifying themselves even for the humbler positions in the best possible way. Therefore in order that the community may have the highest grade of service in these humbler lines of employment the possibility of promotion must be secured. Moreover, the community is in need in all lines of service of the entire capacity of its members. There are now many girls of real capacity able because of the economic position of their families to take long and arduous training, and there is an enormous and immeasurable waste at the present time resulting from the failure to utilize the full ability of just such women. For such as these it is very desirable that the highest positions in the teaching profession, in the medical profession, in public service, and in the legal profession should be open. This book attempts to make known to young women who are able to prepare for occupations requiring preliminary training the exact cost, the desired qualifications, the nature of the openings now available and those which may be reasonably expected in the near future, and the satisfactions other than pecuniary attached to the seven professions chosen for discussion: namely, teaching; the medical profession including dentistry; the nursing profession with midwifery and massage; inspectorships and positions as health visitor; women in the civil service; women clerks and secretaries; acting as a profession.

The various portions of the book are written by women who have succeeded in the occupations described: for example, Miss Morley, the editor of the series, herself a university lecturer, writes on women at universities and university teaching as a profession; Dr. Morrell, who

writes the article on the medical profession including dentistry, has been assistant medical officer of health under the London County Council, a lecturer in the London County Council and Battersea Polyclinic, an honorary medical officer, and a medical registrar and resident house physician at the Royal Free Hospital, London; Miss Musson, who contributes the portion of the material on nursing, is the matron of the General Hospital at Birmingham; and Miss Barton, who writes on nursing in poor-law infirmaries is president of the Poor Law Infirmity Matrons' Association; Miss Ashwell contributes the article on acting as a profession. The publication is the first in a series proposed by the Studies Committee of the Fabian Women's Group, and is published under the general patronage of Mrs. Charlotte Wilson, Mrs. Pember Reeves, author of *Round About a Pound a Week*, and Mrs. Bernard Shaw. The material presented is so practical and so well organized as to be extremely interesting to the American reader, and undoubtedly of very definite service to the English woman undergraduate seeking "vocational guidance." To the American reader the two interesting aspects of the volume are its treatment of the problem of equal pay for equal work, and the right of professional women to continue their work after marriage if they feel that they can do so without undue sacrifice of either domestic or professional interests. The doctrine of these writers is perfectly plain—they claim the right of professional women to be admitted to occupations for which they may present undoubted qualifications, to receive pay based upon the quality of their work and not upon the fact of sex, and to decide for themselves whether or not they will marry, and if they marry whether or not they will continue their professional work. They make very clear the disadvantages flowing from refusal to recognize the quality of the work by reasonable promotion in university work, in the medical profession, and in the public service. They point also the effects on the profession itself of the failure to recognize the principle of equal pay for equal work. If men refuse to open the front door of equal pay and equal opportunity they have only themselves to blame if women get in by the back door of scabbing; but the men alone cannot pay the cost of such archaic and wasteful policy. The waste, the stupidity, and the injustice of determinations by men regarding the right of professional women to continue their work after marriage is presented very strongly; in some cases by indicating the loss of able women to the profession, in other cases by the loss to the nation of the kind of families which could be established by these competent women. The book is well worth the consideration of all college and

university officials who are undertaking to give vocational guidance to undergraduate students, and it would certainly furnish enlightenment to boards of trustees of colleges and universities and those who are responsible for the selection of capable civil servants. Although there is the lack of unity characteristic of papers prepared under arrangements of this kind, there is a high level of literary ability maintained, as well as a vigorous grasp of professional and economic problems.

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Law, Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries. By JOHN B. KAISER. Boston Book Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. xii+467. \$4.00.

Including an index of thirty-three pages, Mr. Kaiser's "introductory manual" of law, legislative, and reference libraries comprises a book of 467 pages. Important as these types of special libraries have grown to be within five or six years, it is doubtful if a sense of proportion would justify such a formidable exposition of the subject. The inclusion of many lists of catalogues and other library publications, some of them of passing or doubtful utility, is responsible for much of this bulk. Perhaps, after all, it is ungenerous to complain of overabundance when there can be no criticism of omission. Mr. Kaiser has certainly garnered the field diligently. But he has been more than a mere compiler of disassociated facts. In orderly and logical arrangement he traces, from inception, the evolution of the law and legislative libraries, clearly indicating their departure from the purposes which originally gave rise to their establishment, and their present-day attempt to meet the expanding needs of public officials, administrative and legislative, and of publicists and quasi-public organizations. He well summarizes the distinction between these types of related special libraries:

The law library must provide the facts of existing law for those who must apply it as it is—the judge, the practitioner of law, and law students. Legislative and municipal reference libraries aim to supply one factor of the problem of intelligent legislation by providing in addition to existing law the facts of comparative experience, both to be used by lawmakers as a basis for more intelligent and scientifically planned legislation.

Law libraries, doubtless owing to the fact that they serve smaller groups of users, are far more numerous than legislative reference libraries. Of the former, 534 in the United States, and 100 in Canada, embracing